

8/22/79

AK 246

Argentina

PRESS GUIDANCE

ARA - August 22, 1979

Argentina: Protest Against Embassy "Investigation"

Q: Do you have any comment on the Argentine protest against an Embassy "investigation" that appeared in the press this morning?

A: The Argentines did make a verbal protest to us through Ambassador Castro yesterday. We regret that the Argentine authorities misunderstood my use of the verb "investigate". We had no intention of implying an investigation of this matter. Rather, we intended to indicate that we had asked our Embassy to look into it, consult with the Argentine Government and with others, and report back. We had no intention of violating normal and customary international practice and rules of conduct. This is normal diplomatic procedure, and we regret the misunderstanding this time.

Q: Is the State Department conducting an investigation of human rights matters in Argentina, as the protest states?

A: No. It is normal diplomatic procedure for us to ask our Embassy to look into something and report back to us.

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(X) Release () Excise () Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: () In Part () In Full

() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

ARA/P:DEMathes:mms Cleared:ARA/ECA:KAdams

ARA:RGusman

ARA:VPVaky

P:DNewsom

HA:SCohen

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